

A NEW SCHOOL OR NO SCHOOL

The All important Question that is now up to the People of this School District for Solution.

Compromise on all Differences and Give the District Proper Facilities is the General Sentiment.

The title of this article faithfully depicts the condition in which school matters rest at this particular moment in the Crystal Falls school district. As was noticed in these columns several times, the school board of this district had a bill drafted to re-organize the present school district. The bill incorporated, besides the re-organization features, a clause allowing the bonding of the district to the amount of 5 per cent of the assessed valuation which, at the present time, would amount to a little over \$80,000. It was not the intention of the board to ask for that much money. As near as we have been able to ascertain, the board wanted to raise about \$40,000. The bill was sent to Mr. Moriarty several weeks ago and entered in the senate where it was referred to the committee on such matters. The Detroit papers contained notices of the bill at the time in which it was stated that the amount asked for was \$50,000. This mis-statement was the initial one to a revolt against the action of the board. The taxpayers' association, whose only information was that gleaned from the newspaper reports, at once started a protest against the bill.

Then the mining companies and the leading taxpayers of the district, feeling that they had not been consulted by the board in the matter, at once got up a petition asking a stay of proceedings until matters could be investigated. All sorts of rumors were put in circulation, some of them true and many of them false. The agitation developed into a whirlwind and swept all before it, culminating at a meeting of the board last Friday evening when a number of the taxpayers of the district assembled to talk the matter over with the board. There was considerable argument pro and con, but as there was no data before the people to direct the arguments to, the talk was much on the tangent line except upon the matter of the make-up of the board upon which everyone is well qualified to judge. The meeting developed at last into a discussion between Captain Richards and Captain Bjork, the former agreeing to a proposition to limit the bonding for a new building to \$30,000 and to incorporating a clause into the bill making it mandatory for two of the members of the board to reside in the township. Mr. Bjork disagreed with Captain Richards on the amount of money necessary and no compromise was effected. The meeting broke up and the people awoke to the fact that the new school house was knocked in the head.

The great trouble in getting at the roots of what is best for the whole community in a matter of the kind at issue is that the great bulk of those who take the initiative are not true to their convictions or else are not so constituted that they can tickle the palate of every individual in the community. It's human nature to find fault and it's very easy to find a reason to find a fault. If these reasons are traced to their origin they, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, are built on either personal desires or personal prejudices. The man with the axe is far more in evidence than the man with the hoe.

So much in general. Now to be specific. What ought to be done in the case at issue. There is no dodging the question. We ought to have a new school. How much should be put into it? That is another question and one that I am free to say that we don't know and I'm not fearful of being disputed when I say that neither the school board nor the people know for the simple reason that no steps have been taken to find out.

We have been clawing the air like a lot of school boys playing blind man's buff. The school board guesses that \$40,000 ought to be raised, other guess \$30,000 is enough while others guess different sums. Just take this matter home. If you were going to build a new house with borrowed money would you "guess" that you needed \$1,000 and go and borrow or would you first find out what kind of a house you needed, how much it would cost and then size up your pile and find out how much you need to borrow. No plans, specifications or estimates have been placed before the people to date and if we go ahead and bond we will be simply working in the dark. It seems to me that the wisest course would be for the board to get a tang-

ible working plan or plans and present them to the public. But, let us have plans that are ample. No more such work as that of the board of public works when they underestimated the amount necessary to build the water works. I make this statement in a spirit of warning, not criticism, for it is a well known fact that the board was misled on the estimate. Let's be sure of our premises.

But, we are met with the rejoinder, we haven't time. Oh, yes we have. We have all the time there is and that's sufficient. This world wasn't made in a minute and suppose that we are put to a little inconvenience and delay in getting into the building next fall. Better that than foister on the district something that is not at all suitable for the purpose and then have to spend as much money in readjusting as in the initial expenditure.

The legislature won't adjourn until the June grass is gathered, from present appearances, and we have a couple of months in which to make up our minds what kind of a bill ought to be passed.

In regards to the re-organization of the district, there are some justifiable kicks on the proposed bill. The township ought to have representation on the board. We furthermore think that the salary of the clerk and the treasurer ought to be stated in the bill. The discussion has been pretty general and rather warm in some spots but we will all be the gainers thereby. The contention will pass away, by-and-by, and result will show that the two heads are better than one.

As a closing we would say, get together gentlemen. Don't let it be said that in such a little matter, and one in which public sentiment is practically united, we can't get what is best.

Paul Schook:—We want a school. Everyone wants one. I want one and want to see something done to settle this matter so that we can get the school. Call a mass meeting and let's get the thing started.

In order to show up the exact sentiment of the people of the community the Diamond Drill has taken pains to interview a large number of our taxpayers and we give verbatim, as nearly as possible, their replies. It will be seen from these interviews that the people of this city are united on the demand for a new school and we would further deduct from the statements made that it is the opinion of the people that a compromise ought to be effected by which the bill can be amended and passed.

Jas. Wilkins:—We need a school badly and I'm in favor of getting one and of raising enough money to do the thing right. The health of our children is at stake, the present building not being fit for habitation.

John Haasstrom:—I am so disgusted with the way things turned out and at the lies that were told broadcast regarding the action of the board that I have little to say. I think, as I know everyone else thinks, that we ought to have a school and I had set in my mind a figure about \$35,000 as the sum that we ought to bond for. I would never have consented to more than that and I think that the other members had about the same idea.

Adolph Sutter:—I think we ought to have a new school and a good school. I don't want to see the district bonded for any fifty or sixty thousand dollars for I don't think that we need it. The health of our children and also common cleanliness demands that something be done to alleviate the present overcrowded condition.

W. J. Richards:—I think now just as I stated at the meeting last week. I feel that there ought to be a new school here but think from \$25,000 to \$30,000 enough. I also think that the township should have two representatives on the board and that the salary of the clerk and treasurer should be stated in the bill. Things are uncertain in these mining towns and there is as much chance for the population decreasing as there is for it to increase. A large building about the size of the present one in addition to what we have ought to answer the purpose.

Robert Munns:—I feel that we ought to have a new school. As to the amount we ought to bond for I don't feel that I am in position to say for I don't know.

Jacob Besser: I'm sure I don't know. It seems to me that the bonds are

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coming pretty fast. I also think that the school ought to be located in the city.

John Erikson:—I think and have always thought that we ought to have a school and I am in favor of all getting together and agreeing on a bill. I feel that the board, unintentionally, over stepped the bonds of good judgment in not calling in at least a dozen or so of the heaviest taxpayers and consulting with them in this matter. As to stating a sum which ought to be raised I will say that it is foolishness to set upon any sum before the board has received some estimate to guide the people in making their decisions. I think that \$40,000 will be nearer the right mark than any figure I have heard named. What ever is done ought to be done right. There is another point that ought to be settled one way or the other and that is the right of the women to vote. I am not arguing one way or the other but I think that the question should be settled so that people will know.

J. B. Schwartz: Why I haven't much to say. I think that we ought to have a school. I am not in favor of building a school in the township, though. If that property was annexed to the city I would say that there is not a nicer place in the surrounding country for a school than there. I do not believe in building on the same lot either. I say build a good school. Put \$40,000 into it if necessary and I would not kick on putting \$60,000. What we do we want to do well.

John Wall:—We must get the new

school. I am in favor of a building to cost about \$30,000 and of the place back of the court house for a site.

R. B. Webb:—I am, as I know every man in town who knows anything about the conditions is, in favor of a new school. The thing to do, now that this matter is hung up, is not to content ourselves with stating opinions but to persuade those who are apart on the matter to come to an agreement to compromise their difficulties. We need a school. I understand that in that old building there were some men as I paid. The of op build some the sil I am in and ap the dist which is small sch

Richard V. I am in favor apart to compromise and have a bill passed money enough to bu school house. I am also in the township having represent the board.

Andrew Nelson:—I say means let's agree on a bill so t may have a new school. If those who have locked not get together just per

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HISTORY OF CRYSTAL FALLS.

(Continued From Last Week.)

The Railroad was completed to Crystal Falls in the summer of 1893 and a passenger and freight train were put on at once. Low Tyler was appointed the first agent, he is now General Freight Agent of the Northern Pacific R. R. at Portland Ore. The mines began shipping ore at once, and Crystal Falls was a lively town. C. T. Roberts was appointed Supt. of the Paint River and Mastodon mines and Frank Scadden was bookkeeper.

We built a cheap road to Fortune Lake and fishing there and at Fence River was immense. Many parties from outside came in to go fishing. Among other I remember one party of young men who were studying in Chicago for the ministry. Headed by Rev. Cory then, located at Florence, they came to visit Mr. Laurie, who was then located at Crystal Falls now a missionary in China. They were four all told, and they wanted a guide to go to Fence River and finally persuaded my son Charles to go with them. They started out on foot. The whole outfit of supplies consisted of 3 lbs. cracker, 1/2 lb tea and 1 lb. salt and a great lot in Providence for the remainder.

When crossing of Deer River a small raft anchored in the bridge and feeling a little tender footed about this time they concluded to drift down Deer River with the current not one having the faintest idea where it would bring them out, but trusting in Providence they started on. A few miles down stream the current became rather slow and Mr. Laurie trying to push the raft along with a pole, the pole went down in the mud and Mr. Laurie went down head foremost after it, being pulled out by his friends. They continued down stream until night when they caught a few fish and eat up their supply of provision, and found their tea and salt had become mixed. The next day they struck the Michigan and caught no more fish began to get pretty hungry, and anxious to see a way out, but no road or path, so they continued another day until they came where a cyclone had crossed the river, which Charles recognized having been there once

with me. They followed this great windfall of timber and got back pretty badly demoralized to Crystal Falls.

This brings me down to the time that many of the present residents of Crystal Falls remember and a good time to close my narrative. I will only say in conclusion, that Crystal Falls is the only place that I have lived during a long and rambling life, that I have often regretted of having left, and I advise everybody that is doing well to stay there, but as there may be some that feel themselves crowded, and want a larger domain, or some that want a milder climate, I say without hesitation come to Idaho. I can look from my window on the Bitter Root Mountains, that have furnished since 1862 over two hundred million dollars of placer gold, and it is still being washed out the mountains are about 100 miles wide east and west, and run the whole length of this state they are generally covered with a heavy growth of Pine, Fir, Cedar and other timber more lying on the ground, then ever stood on any tract at Crystal Falls and in consequence, this great mountain country is yet an unknown wilderness where new discoveries will be made for the next 100 year, the timber is now being located and I saw, about a year ago, Mr. Buskirk (of the early days of Crystal Falls) at the land office locating timber under the stone and timber Act, which is in force here. But the valleys of Idaho, and the prairie that offer the greatest attraction. While the snow gets very deep in the mountains, the valleys have very little snow and a very mild climate and the richest soil in the U. S.

This description applies to Idaho, Washington and Oregon the great Inland Empire. Wheat seldom runs less than 30 bushels per acre and often 75 bushels. I know many will doubt this but it is true. We raise all sorts of fruit here in great abundance which is shipped to the eastern cities. I am successfully raising on my place here in sight of the mountains, apples, pears, Quinces, plums, prunes, peaches, cherries, nectarines, apricots, almonds, mulberry, english walnuts, butternuts black walnuts and chestnuts, and also all the small fruits. Grapes do especially well and besides all the domestic grapes the European grapes do well here and they cannot be grown elsewhere in this country excepting

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